

How to use modal verbs in writing

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Definition

The modal are verbs that give additional information about the function of the main verbs that come after them. They indicate ability, permission, request, capacity, suggestion, order, obligation, necessity, possibility or advice.

Usage in Academic English

- 1. Modal verbs are a relatively common feature of academic writing. It is estimated that they comprise one to two per cent of academic text. In addition to the items noted on the previous page, there are a number of specific academic purposes for which modal verbs can be used.**

How to use correctly?

Three main rules to be followed

1: Use the modal as it is

2: Use the base form of the verb after a modal

3: If you need to use modals in the negative form, then use only (not) after the modal verb.

Examples of every rule

Correct: Ali can swim
Wrong: Ali cans swim

Correct: Ahmad might join them
Wrong: Ahmad might to join them

Correct: You should not drink too much
Wrong: You Don't should drink too much

Number of Modal Verbs

- The nine most common modals are can, could, shall, should, will, would, may, might, and must.

MODAL VERBS		
MODALS	FUNCTIONS	EXAMPLES
1 CAN	is used to express ability, possibility, doubt, or request	I can run very fast. He can come with us.
2 COULD	is used to express ability in past, permission, or possibility	Could you say it again? I could run faster when I was younger.
3 MAY	is used to express future possibility or permission	May I come in? They may go tomorrow.
4 MIGHT	is used to express past possibility or permission	I might go home tonight. He might have read book before go to sleep.
5 SHALL	is used to express future plans, suggestions or intention	Shall we go to shop? Shall I open the door?
6 WILL	is used to express certain prediction, desire, or promise	It will be cold tomorrow. I will do my best in exam.
7 SHOULD	is used to express advice, recommendation, or expectation	You should learn English. You should be ready.
8 WOULD	is used to express willingness, invitation or past habit	I would be happy to assist. Would you come again?
9 MUST	is used to express necessity, obligation or logical conclusion	I must finish my homework by today.
10 OUGHT TO	is used to express strict recommendation or moral obligation	You ought to apologize for your mistake.

